Workforce Accelerator Fund 7.0 RFA

Q&A

November 2, 2018

Q: 1) Is the CSU or UCs eligible to apply for a grant?

A: Eligible applicants for this RFA include Local Workforce Development Boards, labor organizations, K-12 education entities, Community Colleges, adult schools, county social services agencies, community-based organizations, business related non-profit organizations, and workforce intermediaries. A for-profit private business or a for-profit consortium of businesses cannot be the lead applicant but can be a partner on the Project Team.

Q: 2) Is it allowable to apply for WAF 7.0, with different partners, if the organization has a WAF 6.0 project already in progress?

A: If the proposal falls under one of the three categories and does not DUPLICATE the 6.0 proposal, yes. A New project, Scaling and replicating original project through the Innovation Impact category, or addressing system barriers under a System Change project would be acceptable.

Q: 3) What is the definition of low-income workers?

A: For Workforce Accelerator, the WIOA definition of Low Income Worker is used.

Q: 4) Are grantees required to competitively procure partners that are written into proposals as experts, innovators or customers?

A: Proposed partners or team members do not fall under procurement rules. They are subgranted. Any contracts for services would fall under local procurement rules.

Q: 5) On page 15 of the RFA, it states the applications are due on December 14th. Is the due date the 3rd or the 14th?

A: The RFA has been corrected. Application are due on December 3rd by 3PM PST. The Application Workshop is going to be held on November 14th at 2PM.

November 9, 2018

Q: 6) When and where is the Application Workshop?

A: The Application Workshop is a webinar/conference call on Wednesday November 14, 2018 at 2PM. Those who register will receive login and call in instructions on Tuesday, November 13. RSVP here.

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Q: 7) Can a Customer from our 6.0 grant be eligible to be an Innovation Impact Advisor for 7.0?

A: Technically, yes if they were very involved in the project. Their role and contributions in the 6.0 project should illustrate their ability to advise on an impact project.

Q: 8) Can a member of the project team play more than one role? For example, could an "innovators" partner also be listed as a "customers" partner?

A: Yes and no. Each team member category must have a unique individual representing that category. If there are multiple individuals in a team category, one person could represent the unique individual in one and a member of the other two categories.

Q: 9) Can the project team include multiple partners for each group (experts, innovators, customers)?

A: Yes.

Q: 10) Can an entity be a lead in one WAF 7.0 application, and named as a partner in another WAF 7.0 applications?

A: Yes.

Q: 11) Are both the Project Narrative and the Project Team description to be completed in Form A: Narrative? If so, does that mean that up to 2.5 pages of Form A would be devoted to project narrative and up to one page devoted to project team description for a total of up to 3.5 pages?

A: The Project Team description is separate from the Narrative and has a 1 page limit. You may attach it directly to the Narrative as an additional page or you can submit it separately.

Q: 12) In past years, federal funds were allowable as match. Is this still the case?

A: Yes

Q: 13) Would it be OK for an Innovation Impact proposal to draw from multiple previous WAF projects? (Same Impact Advisor on all projects.)

A: Yes. An advisor would be still required so be sure to acknowledge who that person is, their role in previous projects and their role in the proposed project.

Q: 14) Can you find an advisor as a new applicant?

A: A new project applicant does not require an advisor. If you are replicating a previous accelerator project you would have knowledge of that project to replicate or scale the success If you are interested in a particular project's work, you can contact CWDB and we can connect you.

Q: 15) What is the range in award amounts for new applicants?

A: On page 12 of the RFA, you will find the "up to" grant amounts for each category.

Q: 16) Can you send out a transcript of the Q&A as well?

A: All Q&A from the webinar is captured in this posting.

Q: 17) If we have a NICRA for over the 10% admin limit, are we still limited to 10%?

A: Yes. 10% of Admin Cost for this grant means **Admin cost = Admin + Indirect Cost** must be equal to or lower than 10% of the awarded amount. The correct application is to apply your indirect cost rate to your *total* organizational funding and then distribute it evenly amongst your programs. If your indirect cost + your direct admin is more than 10% of the grant total, then you cannot charge all of your indirect costs to the grant. Please refer to WIOA for guidance on administrative costs to ensure that you are not over classifying costs as admin. For example rent, utilities, and supplies related to all staff other than fiscal and administrative support staff, should be charged to program.

Q: 18) What is the CWDB's relative priority in funding applications among the four different project types?

A: The funding priority is equal. What we eventually award will depend largely on what we receive, how applications coming out of the scoring process, geographic distribution, and diversity in populations served among other factors.

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Q: 19) Given that the technical assistance (TA) is to be provided to the successful Accelerator 7 Projects and they won't be known at the time of application, are you looking for primarily technical assistance rather that specific content areas? Or are you asking that TA applicants propose a wide range of potential content areas to be applies based on need?

A: We are looking for general technical assistance based on what is outlined in the RFA. You also can propose any other team members that have specific expertise that would support the Accelerator effort.

Q: 20) If an organization has multiple offices and has won a grant in one office but is applying from another office would they count as a previous applicant?

A: It will be based on the project, project team, prior proposal rather than who the applicant was. If you are an applicant who proposed a project in 6.0 and you have a different project that you want to propose from a different office that would be a completely different project.

Q: 21) Can you explain the 1:1 replication requirement for Impact Innovation.

A: Innovation Impact projects take a successful previous accelerator project or elements of a successful accelerator project and replicate either in another geography, with a different population, or with different system partners. There are different ways you can bring replication or scale to a successful project or elements to a successful project.

Q: 22) Is there a list of Accelerator projects somewhere?

A: Yes, prior Accelerator projects are attached as an appendix on the RFA. Executive summaries can be found on the [Workforce Accelerator initiative page](#) in the Material Library.

Q: 23) Can two separate applicants/agencies apply for support of the same program?

A: Yes but would need to have two different "big ideas" and separate teams in order to be competitive.

Q: 24) When will the full application packets be available for download?

A: Application packets are available for download on the [Workforce Accelerator initiative page.](#)

Q: 25) With folks experiencing homelessness as an intended population to serve, would these individuals qualify under the Long Term Unemployed category?

A: Yes. Be sure to indicate the population on the matrix and address in the narrative.

Q: 26) Is it conceivable that matching funding be met entirely by in-kind matching?

A: Yes.

Q: 27) What are acceptable "match" sources for new projects? What have others used in the past?

A: Acceptable matches would be any cash or in-kind.

Q: 28) Will there be any other application workshops offered prior to the due date?

A: No. The slide deck is available on the Workforce Accelerator initiative page and all the Q&A from the application workshop is captured in this posting. If you have any additional questions, please send them to CWDBInfo@cwdb.ca.gov.

Q: 29) Is there any function for potential project applicants or partners to connect on the CWDB website?

A: No, not on the state board website. We have a LinkedIn group. The LinkedIn group is "Workforce Accelerator Fund – Grantees, Partners & Stakeholders."

Q: 30) Are you focused on any particular industry?

A: No.

Q: 31) Do award amounts increase for repeat applicants if they're able to demonstrate success?

A: No.

Q: 32) Is there a mechanism to apply to be a coach/TA provider to grantees in this program?

A: That is one of the application categories. You could also connect with the entity who gets awarded the 7.0 TA to discuss being a part of the coaching team. Until someone is awarded, we have no way to connect you.

Q: 33) Out of the target populations listed, which are highest priority?

A: All the populations listed are a priority. However, re-entry and immigrant job seekers could receive additional points in the scoring. How you get additional points would be proposing a project that primarily targets the above-mentioned population/s and proposing a team that includes people who have expertise in serving that population.

Q: 34) Are there any regulations that would keep an adult school operating in a county jail from applying as a new project?

A: No.

Q: 35) Can Community Colleges, if the applicant, be any of the team roles?

A: Yes.

Q: 36) Should the project teams be listed as individuals or institutions?

A: Project teams should be listed as individuals. We want to know who the person is and what their role is on the project.

Q: 37) You said that if the expert has direct experience with ex-offenders or immigrant workers, they could receive extra points?

A: Yes. Any applications submitted that targets either ex-offenders or immigrant workers and has someone on the team who has experience or expertise in serving the aforementioned population/s in your application could receive additional points.

Q: 38) Will this PowerPoint be available for us to download?

A: Yes.

Q: 39) Will the questions and answers during the webinar be posted?

A: Yes.

Q: 40) Can we get extra "immigrant" points if they are included in one of our groups that we are assisting? For example, if we focus on homeless, there will be a portion of immigrants included.

A: To maximize the opportunity to receive extra target population points, the population you are going to serve should be the primary group.   On the matrix for the application you will check immigrant job seeker as the population served. Indicate how that population will be served and document what your project proposes to do to remove specific barriers for this population.

Q: 41) On the Budget Summary document, column D is titled "WIOA 15 Percent Funds". What does "15 Percent Funds" refer to?

A: It's about Awarded Funds versus Matching Funds. The funding source of the WAF 7.0 is from WIOA 15 Percent Governor's Discretionary Funds. It is called 15 Percent Funds because WIOA reserves 15 percent from formula funds for the Governor to fund state-led job innovative training initiatives like Accelerator.

Q: 42) If the applicant for Impact Innovation category is a previous WAF grantee, an Impact Innovation Advisor is not required?

A: An Advisor is still required. Someone has to be named as the Advisor but they can be from a previous project. It is not necessary to reach out to someone else to be your advisor. They can be part of the original team but indicate them as the person that will take that role in the new application. Describe their previous contributions to the original project and outline what they would contribute to the proposed project.

Q: 43) Can a totally new applicant apply for Technical Assistance and Support?

A: Yes.

Q: 44) Can you confirm if these funds originate at the state level, or are they federal pass through?

A: These are federal dollars from the WIOA 15% Governor's Discretionary Funds.

Q: 45) In terms of team roles, does the applicant need to be the Expert?

A: No, the applicant could play any role on the team.

Q: 46) Can the nonprofit apply for more than one program?

A: Yes.

Q: 47) Are multiple applications allowed?

A: Yes.

Q: 48) Where will the Communities of Practice be held? How far in advance are Communities of Practice events planned?

A: Accelerator 7.0 will hold two Communities of Practice events during the grant period. Likely one event in Southern California and another in Northern California. You will receive several months advance notice prior to both events.

Q: 49) Can this grant pay for staff time for a partner agency to assist on the project?

A: Yes.

Q: 50) Can you please talk about the requirement for match?

A: Match requirements are outlined on page 12 of the RFA.

Q: 51) Do we find the application packet at www.cwdb.ca.gov?

A: Yes. On the Workforce Accelerator initiative page.

Q: 52) Can the matching funding be in-kind?

A: Yes.

Q: 53) You had mentioned that we should budget travel expense of at least one person to attend at least 3 learning sessions in Sacramento (cross project communication). Should this be part of our asking amount or additional to project budget?

A: Project proposals should include in their budget exhibits, travel costs for at least three team members to attend 2 in-person convenings during the grant period. This cost should be included in your total ask and match.

Q: 54) Can other federal funds be used as match?

A: The only exclusion would be funds from another WIOA grant that stipulates those funds may not be used as a match for another WIOA grant.

November 21, 2018

Q: 55) Are fiscally sponsored non-profit organizations eligible to apply?

A: If your organization is registered as a non-profit, you are eligible to apply.

Q: 56) Under the allowable expenditures, can employers be incentivized to participate in piloting a program proposed in the application? For example, if the program is apprenticeship and a cost or barrier to piloting is employee wages, can a portion of the grant be used towards the employer to help with this expense and then a portion of the wages be used as the match?

A: Employers can utilize On-the-job Training (OJT) as a means to mitigate the costs associated with "skills upgrading and loss of production for the training of newly hired employees." When an employer offers OJT to a participant, the grant fund can cover up to 50 percent of the participant's wages and the employer pays for the rest of the portion. The employer's contribution can be used as matching funds.

Q: 57) We are interested in partnering with a university to submit under the New Accelerator Project category targeting ex-offenders. Would a university be eligible to apply for the Accelerator grant directly?

A: If the University is NOT registered as a "For Profit" entity, it is an eligible applicant. For profits may be part of a team, but not the applicant.

Q: 58) Under Innovation Impact Project Narrative Table, bullet 6, "Provide an outline and strategies…?" Would a chart work best for this bullet point after two pages of narrative that responds to the first five bullet points? If chart is to be submitted, as well as in the attachments, can the font size be smaller than 12 pt.?

A: The Project Narrative is for the broader context of the project, whereas the Work Plan is for detailing the specific events to be completed within certain time frame.

All applications must adhere to the required format and, in order to be competitive, must include all of the requested information, completed forms, and attachments. For details on page limits and required forms and attachments for each project type, refer to *Section 4: Application Requirements, Award, and Contracting* on pages 16-17 of the RFA on the Workforce Accelerator Initiative page.